

beginning in 2008 through 2010 for the relief of Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons, an increase of direct accountable bilateral assistance and/or funding for international aid organizations and nongovernmental organizations working in the host countries and an authorization of \$500 million to increase border security in Jordan.

Additionally, this legislation facilitates the resettlement of Iraqis employed by our government, American companies, and nongovernmental organizations into the United States, broadens domestic relocation assistance to include housing credits, cultural counseling, meetings with social workers, advice on how to work with the schools and employment systems, and requires the Department of State to create a program in the U.S. for English as a second language, vocational, computer training, employment services and some counseling for all Iraqi nationals immigrating to the United States under a Special Immigrant Visa.

Finally this legislation urges increased cooperation between the United States Government and the international community to address this crisis.

In passing this legislation, Congress can reaffirm its commitment to Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons. Our attention to this crisis could not be more important at this time for the sake of the new Iraq and Middle East regional stability. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and ask for its expeditious consideration.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TASK  
FORCE ON MENTORING OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 16TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 26, 2007*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and express my gratitude to the Task Force on Mentoring of Montgomery County, MD.

The Task Force on Mentoring is a community-based, nonprofit organization whose mission is to expand access to mentoring programs to youth and to enhance the community's understanding of mentoring as a valuable tool to ensure that our students can achieve their full potential. Among its many important efforts, the TFM provides training to mentors; sponsors seminars, conferences and workshops; assists parents seeking mentors; works to expand the pool of volunteer mentors; and establishes school-based mentoring programs.

The Task Force on Mentoring has supported at-risk youth for over 16 years. Its upcoming Annual Breakfast Conference focuses on "Making the Right Life Choices—How Mentoring Empowers Our Youth." The conference will take place at the Rockville campus of John Hopkins University on October 4, 2007.

Thanks to the dedication and effective efforts of the Task Force on Mentoring, many of Montgomery County's adolescents have been given the opportunity to become active and productive citizens.

Madam Speaker, on the occasion of its 16th annual conference, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Task Force on Mentoring of Montgomery County.

GLOBAL POVERTY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2007*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague and good friend from Washington, Congressman ADAM SMITH, for this legislation and his commitment to ending poverty worldwide.

The statistics are hard to believe: More than one billion people worldwide still struggle to survive on less than \$1 per day, and another 1.6 billion eke out a living on less than \$2 per day.

So, close to three billion men, women, and children—or a population 11 times the size of our own nation—awake each morning to little or no food, dirty water, inadequate shelter, and a lack of rudimentary health care. The entire international community should be ashamed at this massive failure.

Alleviating crushing poverty around the globe is our most profound moral imperative. Our unending compassion as an American people and our position as the world's sole remaining superpower demand it.

But more than just an appeal to our generosity should move us to pass this bill through the House of Representatives today: Reducing poverty around the world is in our national interest.

Persistent poverty gnaws at the bodies of men and women, making them vulnerable to global infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, that demand our resources and threaten health around the globe.

And the despair that inevitably accompanies stifling poverty also chews at the souls of the afflicted, making them vulnerable to ideologies of hate that foment violence around the world.

For all these reasons, we must support this bill. This legislation makes it a central U.S. foreign policy goal to eliminate extreme poverty and to achieve the U.N. Millennium Development Goals, which this Administration has committed to time and again.

Many observers have noted that the Millennium goals are ambitious. But the only way to even come close to achieving them is to remain committed—as a Congress and as a nation—to addressing poverty head-on.

This legislation requires the Administration to develop a comprehensive strategy to eliminate extreme global poverty. And it calls on the Administration—and future Administrations—to present to Congress the specific steps it has taken to develop and implement its strategy.

The bill enumerates several methods that serve as a blueprint for the overall strategy: development policies, continued investment in key programs, debt relief, and coordination with international organizations.

We could all glance at the statistics I mentioned earlier, shrug our shoulders, and shake

our heads. But this Congress will not settle for apathy and indifference. We will use our generosity and our foreign policy to lift up the people in extreme poverty who deserve our immediate attention.

I strongly urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2007*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my strong support for H. Res. 590, a resolution supporting the goal and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness month.

Within the United States, we know that one out of every four American women will experience violence by an intimate partner sometime during her lifetime.

Great strides have been made in breaking the vicious cycle of domestic violence in this country. With the impact of legislation such as the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, the rate of domestic violence against females over the age of 12 in the U.S. declined between 1993 and 2001.

Despite this progress, however, we must continue to raise awareness and actively work to combat this epidemic. We must speak out on behalf of victims who, for too long, were forced to suffer in silence.

Domestic violence can, and often does, turn deadly. A study released by the U.S. Department of Justice in 2005 reported that roughly 22 percent of murders were committed against family members. This study also shows that women are much more likely than men to be victims of domestic violence. In fact, over three-quarters of domestic violence victims are female, while over three-quarters of domestic violence perpetrators are male. It was also found that family members were responsible for an astounding 43 percent of murders of females.

According to a survey conducted in 2007 by the Family Violence Prevention Fund, 56 percent of men have had reason to believe that a member of their immediate or extended family, a close friend, or an acquaintance has been in a domestic violence or sexual assault situation. However, this survey also shows that 57 percent of men believe that they personally can make at least some difference in preventing domestic violence and sexual assault.

I believe that we can all make a difference in the battle against domestic violence. I do not only believe that we can make a difference, but that we must make a difference. I would like to thank my colleague, fellow Texas Congressman TED POE for introducing this important resolution.

I would also like to recognize the numerous organizations and individuals who work tirelessly to eradicate domestic violence and its devastating impact on individuals, families, and our communities.